

Reading waste firm seeks out-of-court agreement

Owners of a Reading waste firm allegedly leaking chemicals into the Mill Creek and polluting the air have asked state officials to settle the matter before it goes to court.

It marks a shift in the public statements by the firm, Pristine, Inc. A spokesman had previously complained that state and local officials were persecuting the firm.

"We are in a conciliatory frame of mind and are willing to work out an agreeable solution to the problem, which we know will involve the expenditure of additional money," said Lanny Holbrook, an attorney who represents the company.

The firm has been in the news since July, when it was revealed that about 10,000 drums of chemical waste were stored on the property, some leaking into the stream.

In August, Kentucky authorities found several trucks of waste chemicals from Pristine in Kentucky without the necessary permits.

Although Pristine reportedly has reduced the number of drums at the site by nearly half, leaking chemicals and complaints about the firm's incinerator were enough for state environmental officials to refer the case to the Attorney General's office Monday for possible litigation.

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